

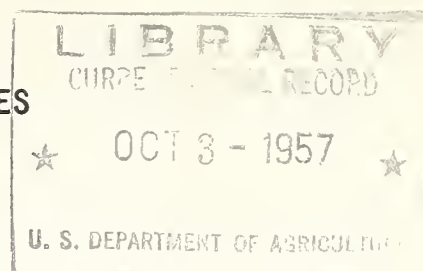
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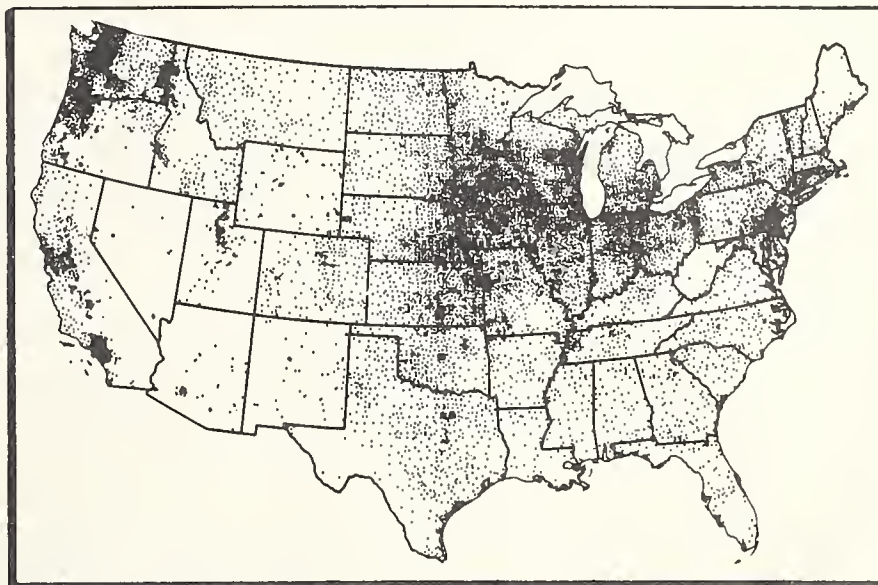
FROZEN FOOD LOCKER PLANTS IN THE UNITED STATES

Twentieth Annual Count, January 1957

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Frozen food locker plants operating in the United States in January 1957 totaled 9,894. Iowa again led with 702, Washington came second with 650, and Wisconsin third with 606. As compared with the previous year this represents a decline of 430 plants. Over half of this decline took place in five mid-western States -- Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, and Ohio and consisted largely of small plants many of which were operated as side lines with other business enterprises such as creameries, retail stores and ice companies.



The number of locker plants by States is shown in the accompanying tabulation.

Frozen food locker plants in the United States

The frozen food locker industry is continuing to change in nature and scope of its activities from a custom processing and locker rental service type of activity largely for farmers to more of a commercial processing and merchandising type of business serving home freezer users, local institutions, and small retail stores.

In line with this change some locker plants have discontinued the rental of lockers and are now directing their activities toward processing and merchandising local as well as commercial frozen food to home freezer users and other outlets and are using their locker storage space for holding their own inventories or for outside commercial storage.

Another type of plant which is becoming of increasing importance in or near large towns and cities is the "Freezer Provisioner" or "Freezer Food Plan." These plants, some of which are independently owned and others operated as chains, process and sell frozen food in quantity lots to home freezer users. Most of them also sell freezers.

Locker plant count by States, January 1957¹

Alabama	59	Maine	19	Ohio	346
Arizona	50	Maryland	42	Oklahoma	210
Arkansas ²	95	Massachusetts	29	Oregon	469
California	449	Michigan	307	Pennsylvania	262
Connecticut	45	Minnesota	575	Rhode Island	4
Colorado	194	Mississippi	63	South Carolina	52
Delaware	11	Missouri	402	South Dakota	271
Florida	44	Montana	192	Tennessee	84
Georgia	98	Nebraska	492	Texas	471
Idaho	156	Nevada	16	Utah	124
Illinois	489	New Hampshire ²	16	Vermont	41
Indiana	306	New Jersey	51	Virginia	67
Iowa	702	New Mexico	42	Washington	650
Kansas	517	New York	209	West Virginia	17
Kentucky	79	North Carolina	93	Wisconsin	606
Louisiana	33	North Dakota	253	Wyoming	92

United States total: 9,894 plants

¹This count does not include several hundred "Freezer Food Plan" or "Provisioner" enterprises not operated in connection with locker plants.
²1958 count (1957 unavailable).

Net zero storage space in lockers and home freezers totaled approximately 140 million cubic feet on January 1, 1957, as compared with 135 million a year previously. This large volume of zero storage space in homes and in lockers is capable of holding at one time about 4 1/3 billion pounds of perishable food. This new method of food storage enables the consumer to purchase food in larger quantities and to take advantage of seasonal price declines.

In many localities, locker plants are playing an important role as processors and merchandisers of frozen food in wholesale quantities to locker and home freezer patrons. It is estimated that the locker industry serves more than 5 million families of which over 2 million are freezer owners. Such operations provide a means of increasing efficiency in marketing farm products by reducing transportation and handling costs. They thus benefit both producers and consumers.

By years the number of frozen food locker plants operating in the United States, 1938-1957, was as follows:

Year	Total plants	Year	Total plants	Year	Total plants
1938	1,269	1945	6,484	1952	11,427
1939	1,861	1946	8,025	1953	10,954
1940	2,870	1947	9,529	1954	10,854
1941	3,623	1948	10,617	1955	10,553
1942	4,323	1949	11,245	1956	10,344
1943	4,559	1950	11,569	1957	9,894
1944	5,282	1951	11,608		

Note: Appreciation is expressed to officials of State Departments of Agriculture, State Extension Services, and State and national locker associations for their cooperation in providing information.